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WYOMING LABOR FORCE TRENDS

Vol. 27 No. 5 A Monthly Newsletter Published in Cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics May, 1990

Trend Setters

Wyoming	Feb'90	Mar'90
Labor Force	239,880	240,257
Employment	224,176	223,681
Unemployment	15,704	16,576
Rate (Raw)	6.5	6.9
Rate (S.A.)	5.5	5.9
Mining Hourly Wage	$15.00	$15.09
Avg. Weekly Hours, Mining	43.4	43.9
USA		
Rate (S.A.)	5.3	5.2
Mining Hourly Wage	$13.31	$13.38
Avg. Weekly Hours, Mining	43.2	42.9
Consumer Price Index		
All Urban (1982-1984 = 100)		
U.S. City Avg.	128.0	128.7
Year Change(U.S.)	+5.3	+5.2

S.A.-Seasonally Adjusted

In this Issue of Trends:

- *CES: #1 in Monthly Employment Information*
- *High Percentage of Trade Establishments Respond to Survey*
- *Population Estimates for Selected Incoorporated Areas*

U.S. Unemployment Dips to 5.2 Percent

After being stuck at 5.3 percent for nine consecutive months, the national seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dipped to 5.2 percent in March. The March rate represents 6.5 million jobseekers across the nation, up from the year ago rate of 5.0 percent and 6.2 million jobseekers.

The U.S. unemployment rate has indicated very little change in the past year and a half. In fact the 1989 annual average rate of 5.3 percent was little changed from the 5.5 percent of 1988. In March, in the U.S., 1.3 million persons were jobless for 15 weeks or longer, representing 20 percent of the unemployed total.

National Discouraged Worker Count at 11 Year Low

The U.S. seasonally adjusted first quarter count of discouraged workers, at 750,000, was at the lowest level since 1979. Of these, almost one half million cited "job conditions" for not actively seeking work, while the remainder cited "personal factors." Blacks and women make up a disproportionately large share of all discouraged workers.

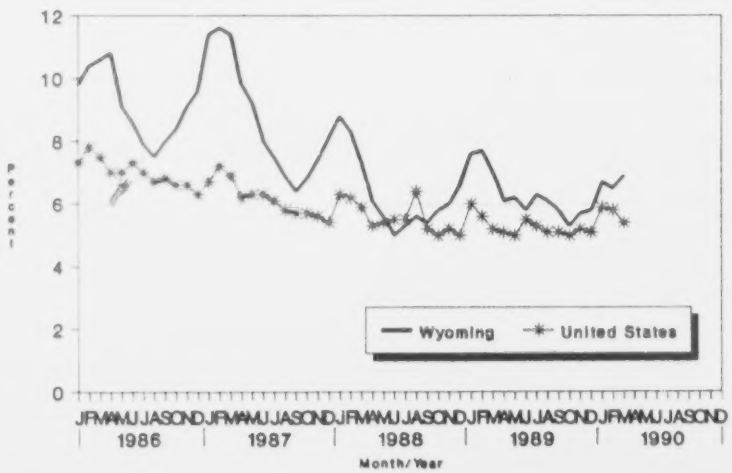
Wyoming Unemployment Up at 5.9 Percent

The statewide seasonally adjusted unemployment rate took a rather sharp jump to 5.9 percent in March, and compares to 5.5 percent in February and 6.0 percent a year ago. The March Current Population Survey (CPS), as conducted in Wyoming, indicated a substantial monthly increase in the statewide labor force new and reentrant count. This would tend to indicate that some discouraged workers, and others who have not worked recently, are now actively seeking work because of an improved job market in the state.

U.S. and State Worker Gains Both Service and Trade Driven

In the nation the service-producing industries of services and retail trade were up 4.6 and 1.5 percent, annually, compared to 3.6 and 3.2 percent in the Cowboy state. These two industries accounted for half the Wyoming annual total employment, worker, gain of 4,800, a 2.2 percent gain. Because of nationwide manufacturing declines, which did not occur in Wyoming, the U.S. total employment gain was 1.2 million, or 1.1 percent. Smaller Wyoming yearly job gains were registered in manufacturing, up 400; local government, up 200; and transportation and utilities, wholesale trade, and federal government, all up 100 each. Mining and construction remained unchanged from last year, an encouraging sign considering the sharp declines of recent years.

Unemployment Rate, Wyoming and the U.S.
Civilian Unadjusted
1986 - 1990



Nationally, manufacturing lost 243,000 jobs from a year ago in March after reaching a post-recession high in the first quarter of 1989.

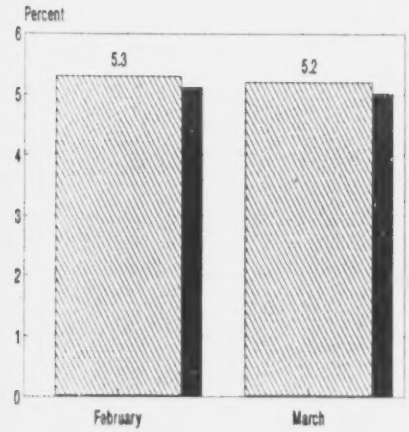
Most Counties Registered Annual Labor Force Gains

In March, 17 of the state's 23 counties indicated labor force growth from a year ago. The Cheyenne area, Laramie County, indicated the greatest annual labor force gain in absolute number, over 1,200. Teton, Hot Springs, and Albany counties posted the state's lowest unemployment at 2.8, 3.6 and 4.0 percent, respectively. Albany and Teton counties, driven by government employment and tourism, also registered second and fifth among counties in numerical employment growth.

Lincoln and Fremont Highest Unemployment

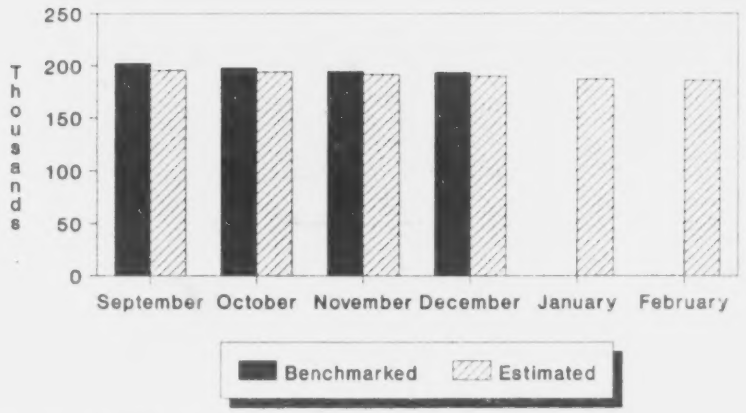
The western part of the state, specifically Lincoln and Fremont counties, posted the highest unemployment at 10.0 and 9.1 percent. Laramie and Natrona counties, the Cheyenne and Casper areas, had unemployment of 6.4 and 7.1 percent.

Consumer Price Index
Annual Percent Change
All Urban



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Current Employment Statistics
Estimated vs Benchmark Employment
September, 1989 - February, 1990



Source: Wyoming CES Unit.

CES: #1 in Monthly Employment Information

by: Vicki Hill and Gregg Detweiler

The Current Employment Statistics (CES) survey is the leading monthly indicator of change in the number of wage and salary jobs worked. Its purpose is to report monthly employment, hours, and earnings for the Nation, the states and selected areas within each state. The defining feature of CES is the soundness of the statistical system and the constant revision of the estimates. In Wyoming, the CES survey produces employment figures statewide, and for Natrona County. Hours and earnings for mining and manufacturing are also produced. The employment information is used by businesses to guide decisions on location, sales and purchases, to compare their business with their industry or the entire business sector, and to detect and plan for swings in the business cycle. Government uses CES data to evaluate the economic health of states and areas, to guide monetary policy decisions and to assess the growth of industries

A survey of employers is conducted on an ongoing monthly basis to get the data required to estimate employment levels. To obtain the most accurate sample of Wyoming's economy, all Wyoming employers are invited to participate in the survey. In 1990 the CES department has increased its sample from 2,000 to 2,700 reporters. Information from individuals is combined with data from other reporting employers within each industry and used as one factor in estimating employment levels.

The CES staff, in the Research and Planning Division, produces the monthly data used in Table 3 of this publication. The estimated employment is categorized as falling in either the Goods or Service Producing sector. The Goods producing industries are those involved in mining, construction, and manufacturing. Total Service Producing includes industries involved in transportation, public utilities, wholesale trade, retail trade, finance, insurance, real estate, services or government.

On an annual basis the estimated data is "benchmarked" or adjusted to match the employment reported by all Wyoming employers under the Wyoming Unemployment Insurance Law. Estimates can vary from actual employment figures due to several factors. Among these factors are dramatic employment changes in non-reporting employers, seasonal employment, a small number of reporting employers within an industry and errors in reporting. The benchmark is used to

staff maintains the accuracy of estimated employment and the soundness of its statistical procedures. The accompanying chart shows a comparison of estimated to benchmarked total employment. The 1989 figures were benchmarked in March of 1990 and will be benchmarked again in March 1991. The 1990 data will be benchmarked for the first time also in March 1991.

For more information on the CES program or to find out how your business can participate, please call 307-235-3270.

High Percentage of Trade Establishments Respond to Survey.

This year, over 90 percent of all Wyoming wholesale and retail trade establishments responded to an industry verification survey. Each year about a third of all Wyoming establishments are surveyed by sending them a industry verification statement. This statement, which describes the industry in which they are coded, is used to verify that an establishment is assigned a correct industrial code. If the description does not match what the establishment is doing then a new code is assigned. The code assigned, comes from the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) System, which classifies establishments based on economic activity. The Research and Planning Division of the Wyoming Department of Employment is grateful to employers who responded during this survey round.

Uinta, Wyoming

Uinta County's 1987 population of 19,800 ranked ninth in the state.

PER CAPITA PERSONAL INCOME - In 1987, Uinta had a per capita personal income (PCPI) of $10,622. This PCPI ranked 20th in the state, and was 84 percent of the state average ($12,706) and 69 percent of the national average ($15,484). In 1977, Uinta's PCPI of $6,139 ranked 19th in the state. The annual average growth rate of PCPI over the past 10 years was 5.7 percent. The average annual growth rate for the state was 5.0 percent and for the nation was 7.8 percent.

Washakie, Wyoming

Washakie County's 1987 population of 9,600 ranked 17th in the state.

PER CAPITA PERSONAL INCOME - In 1987, Washakie had a PCPI of $11,243. This PCPI ranked 17th in the state, and was 88 percent of the state average and 73 percent of the national average. In 1977, Washakie's PCPI of $6,669 ranked 15th in the state. The average annual growth rate of PCPI over the past ten years was 5.4 percent.

Population Estimates - 1988

Selected Incorporated Areas

1. Cheyenne.....54,010
2. Casper.....42,680
3. Laramie.....24,470
4. Gillette.....20,940
5. Rock Springs.....20,870
6. Sheridan.....15,650
7. Green River.....13,580
8. Rawlins.....10,420
9. Evanston.....10,240

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

Wyoming Labor Force and Employment

1986 - 1990

Scale does not begin at zero.
Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics, BLS and Research & Analysis

Consumer Price Index

(1982-1984 = 100)
All Urban

	Mar. 1990	Annual % change
All Items	128.7	5.2
Food & Beverage	131.2	6.4
Housing	126.8	4.4
Entertainment	130.9	5.0
Apparel & Upkeep	125.4	5.1
Transportation	116.8	4.4
Medical	158.7	8.6

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Table 1

WYOMING
ECONOMIC INDICATORS

INDUSTRY	MARCH 1990 [1]	FEBRUARY 1990 [2]	MARCH 1989 [2]	Percent Change From A Month Ago	Percent Change From A Year Ago
WYOMING EMPLOYMENT DATA					
Total Civilian Labor Force	240,257	239,880	235,267	0.2	2.1
Unemployment	16,576	15,704	16,426	5.6	0.9
Employed Labor Force	223,681	224,176	218,841	-0.2	2.2
a. Covered Employment (Under Wyo. UI Law) [3]	173,080 [3]	169,800 [3]	168,202	1.9	2.9
b. Agriculture	11,224	9,643	10,601	16.4	5.9
Total Unemployment Rate (Wyo.) Seasonally Adjusted*	6.9% 5.9%*	6.5% 5.5%*	7.0% 6.0%*	XXX	XXX
Total Unemployment Rate (U.S.) Seas. Adjusted*	5.4% 5.2%*	5.8% 5.3%*	5.2% 5.0%*	XXX	XXX
Insured Unemployment Rate (Wyo.)	2.8%	2.9%	3.4%	XXX	XXX
HOURS & EARNING [4]					
Mining (Production Workers):					
Average Weekly Earnings	$ 662.45	$ 651.00	$ 608.77	1.8	8.8
Average Weekly Hours	43.9	43.4	42.1	1.2	4.3
Average Hourly Earnings	$ 15.09	$ 15.00	$ 14.46	0.6	4.4
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE					
Claims Filed in Local Office	22,720	23,008	26,799	-1.3	-15.2
a. Initial	2,514	2,885	2,804	-12.9	-10.3
Weeks Compensated	17,681	18,052	23,260	-2.1	-24.0
Total Amount Benefits Paid	$ 2,762,837	$ 2,818,371	$ 3,668,019	-2.0	-24.7
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$ 155.83	$ 155.77	$ 157.07	0.0	-0.8
EMPLOYMENT SERVICES					
Total Applications Received During Month	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	XXX	XXX
Total Openings Received	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	XXX	XXX
Individual Placements	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	XXX	XXX
Placement Transactions	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	XXX	XXX
UNITED STATES DATA					
HOURS & EARNING [4]					
Mining					
Average Weekly Earnings	$ 574.00	$ 574.99	$ 552.30	-0.2	3.9
Average Weekly Hours	42.9	43.2	42.0	-0.7	2.1
Average Hourly Earnings	$ 13.38	$ 13.31	$ 13.15	0.5	1.7
PRICE INDEXES					
Consumer Price Index 1982-84=100	128.7	128.0	122.3	0.5	5.2
Producer Prices, All Commodities 1982-84=100	114.2	114.4	111.5	-0.2	2.4
Food and Beverage 1982-84=100	131.2	130.9	123.3	0.2	6.4

1 Preliminary. 2 Revised. 3 Not benchmarked to current population survey. 4 Estimates include all full- and part-time wage and salary workers in non-agricultural establishments who worked or received pay during the week which includes the 12th of the month. Proprietors, self-employeds, domestic servants, and personnel of the armed forces are excluded. 5 Estimate based on historical trends.

WYOMING
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE AND UNEMPLOYMENT

TABLE 2

(Prepared in cooperation with U S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

	LABOR FORCE					UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
COUNTY	MAR 1990	FEB 1990	MAR 1989	CHANGE FEB-MAR	% CHANGE MAR-MAR	MAR 1990	FEB 1990	MAR 1989	MAR 1990	FEB 1990	MAR 1989
Statewide	240,257	239,880	235,267	0.2	2.1	16,576	15,704	16,426	6.9	6.5	7.0
Statewide - Seasonally Adjusted									5.9	5.5	6.0
Albany	16,914	17,242	15,902	-1.9	6.4	675	716	592	4.0	4.2	3.7
Big Horn	5,274	5,228	5,018	0.9	5.1	470	481	434	8.9	9.2	8.6
Campbell	15,746	15,786	15,724	-0.3	0.1	1,181	1,139	1,398	7.5	7.2	8.9
Carbon	7,986	7,867	7,766	1.5	2.8	619	547	601	7.8	7.0	7.7
Converse	5,008	5,036	5,411	-0.6	-7.4	440	443	466	8.8	8.8	8.6
Crook	2,549	2,559	2,721	-0.4	-6.3	172	163	236	6.7	6.4	8.7
Fremont	16,752	16,639	16,411	0.7	2.1	1,531	1,534	1,571	9.1	9.2	9.6
Goshen	6,482	6,334	6,203	2.3	4.5	499	465	354	7.7	7.3	5.7
Hot Springs	2,938	2,901	2,809	1.3	4.6	105	129	119	3.6	4.4	4.2
Johnson	3,621	3,536	3,367	2.4	7.5	281	274	225	7.8	7.7	6.7
Laramie	38,316	38,810	37,088	-1.3	3.3	2,460	2,204	2,181	6.4	5.7	5.9
Lincoln	5,550	5,490	5,682	1.1	-2.3	556	487	574	10.0	8.9	10.1
Natrona	31,003	31,216	30,879	-0.7	0.4	2,211	2,226	2,251	7.1	7.1	7.3
Niobrara	1,554	1,494	1,501	4.0	3.5	128	108	85	8.2	7.2	5.7
Park	13,080	12,967	12,506	0.9	4.6	839	830	767	6.4	6.4	6.1
Platte	4,257	4,210	4,397	1.1	-3.2	296	285	288	7.0	6.8	6.5
Sheridan	13,294	13,121	12,704	1.3	4.6	908	863	738	6.8	6.6	5.8
Sublette	2,959	2,845	2,720	4.0	8.8	185	173	202	6.3	6.1	7.4
Sweetwater	19,359	19,157	19,327	1.1	0.2	1,326	1,159	1,528	6.8	6.1	7.9
Teton	10,199	10,279	9,683	-0.8	5.3	289	226	279	2.8	2.2	2.9
Uinta	9,617	9,502	9,648	1.2	-0.3	826	735	882	8.6	7.7	9.1
Washakie	4,405	4,332	4,389	1.7	0.4	308	303	362	7.0	7.0	8.2
Weston	3,395	3,327	3,416	2.0	-0.6	271	213	297	8.0	6.4	8.7
United States									5.4	5.8	5.2
United States - Seasonally Adjusted									5.2	5.3	5.0

The Department of Employment wishes to state that the data contained in this table are only estimates. The data for the current month is a preliminary estimate and and will be revised next month, and revised again in about a year. The data contained in this table includes updated procedures mandated by the U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. In addition, the 1989 data has been benchmarked to the Current Population Survey as conducted in Wyoming.

NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT IN WYOMING

Table 3

(Prepared in Cooperation with U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT IN THOUSANDS			% CHANGE IN TOTAL EMP.	
	MAR 1990 ₂ Total	FEB 1990 ₁ Total	MAR 1989 Total	MAR 1990 to FEB 1990	MAR 1990 to MAR 1989
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	186.8	186.0	183.8	0.4 %	1.6 %
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	33.1	32.7	32.7	1.2	1.2
Mining	16.2	16.3	16.2	-0.6	0.0
Coal Mining	4.6	4.6	4.6	0.0	0.0
Oil & Gas Extraction	7.2	7.3	7.3	-1.4	-1.4
Nonmetallic Minerals	3.7	3.7	3.6	0.0	2.8
Construction	8.5	8.0	8.5	6.3	0.0
General Building Contractors	1.3	1.3	1.4	0.0	-7.1
Heavy Construction	3.5	3.0	3.7	16.7	-5.4
Special Trade Construction	3.7	3.7	3.4	0.0	8.8
Manufacturing	8.4	8.4	8.0	0.0	5.0
Durable Goods	3.9	3.9	3.7	0.0	5.4
Nondurable Goods	4.5	4.5	4.3	0.0	4.7
Printing & Publishing	1.6	1.7	1.7	-5.9	-5.9
Petroleum & Coal Products	1.2	1.2	1.1	0.0	9.1
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	153.7	153.3	151.1	0.3	1.7
Transportation & Public Utilities	13.9	14.0	13.8	-0.7	0.7
Transportation	8.3	8.3	8.1	0.0	2.5
Railroad Transportation	2.7	2.7	2.7	0.0	0.0
Trucking & Warehousing	4.2	4.2	4.1	0.0	2.4
Communications	2.1	2.1	2.1	0.0	0.0
Electric, Gas & Sanitary Services	3.5	3.5	3.5	0.0	0.0
Trade	42.6	42.2	41.4	1.0	2.9
Wholesale Trade	7.4	7.2	7.3	2.8	1.4
Durable Goods	3.9	3.8	3.8	2.6	2.6
Nondurable Goods	3.5	3.4	3.5	2.9	0.0
Retail Trade	35.2	35.0	34.1	0.6	3.2
Building Materials & Garden Supplies	1.3	1.3	1.2	0.0	8.3
General Merchandise Stores	3.7	3.6	3.2	2.8	15.6
Food Stores	5.6	5.5	5.3	1.8	5.7
Automotive Dealers & Service Stations	5.8	5.8	5.7	0.0	1.8
Apparel & Accessory Stores	1.3	1.4	1.3	-7.1	0.0
Furniture & Home Furnishings Stores	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.0	11.1
Eating & Drinking Places	12.5	12.4	12.5	0.8	0.0
Miscellaneous Retail	4.0	4.0	4.0	0.0	0.0

See footnotes at end of table

Table 3 (Cont.) NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT IN WYOMING [1]

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT IN THOUSANDS MAR 1990 [2] Total	FEB 1990 [3] Total	MAR 1989 Total	% CHANGE IN TOTAL EMP. MAR 1990 to FEB 1990	MAR 1990 to MAR 1989
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	7.1	7.1	7.2	0.0	-1.4
Finance	4.0	4.0	4.2	0.0	-4.8
Insurance	1.6	1.6	1.6	0.0	0.0
Services	34.3	34.3	33.1	0.0	3.6
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	5.3	5.2	5.1	1.9	3.9
Personal Services	1.7	1.7	1.8	0.0	-5.6
Business Services	3.2	3.2	3.1	0.0	3.2
Automotive & Miscellaneous Repair Services	2.1	2.2	2.0	-4.6	5.0
Amusements & Recreational Services including Motion Pictures	2.3	2.3	2.3	0.0	0.0
Health Services	7.6	7.6	7.2	0.0	5.6
Legal Services	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	0.0
Social Services	3.1	3.1	3.1	0.0	0.0
Government	55.8	55.7	55.6	0.2	0.4
Total Federal Government	7.1	7.1	7.0	0.0	1.4
Total State Government	13.3	13.3	13.4	0.0	-0.8
Total Local Government	35.4	35.3	35.2	0.3	0.6
CASPER (Natrona County)					
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	27.2	27.3	26.6	-0.4 %	2.3 %
TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING	5.1	5.2	4.9	-1.9	4.1
Manufacturing	1.6	1.6	1.4	0.0	14.3
Mining	2.2	2.3	2.2	-4.4	0.0
Oil & Gas Extraction	2.1	2.1	2.1	0.0	0.0
Construction	1.3	1.3	1.3	0.0	0.0
TOTAL SERVICE PRODUCING	22.1	22.1	21.7	0.0	1.8
Transportation & Public Utilities	1.7	1.7	1.6	0.0	6.3
Transportation	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	0.0
Communications & Public Utilities	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.0	16.7
Trade	7.7	7.7	7.6	0.0	1.3
Wholesale Trade	2.1	2.1	2.1	0.0	0.0
Retail Trade	5.6	5.6	5.5	0.0	1.8
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.4	1.4	1.4	0.0	0.0
Services	6.2	6.2	6.0	0.0	3.3
Personal & Business Services	1.2	1.2	1.2	0.0	0.0
Health Services	1.9	1.9	1.8	0.0	5.6
Government	5.1	5.1	5.1	0.0	0.0

1 Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers in non-agricultural establishments who worked or received pay during the week which includes the 12th of the month. Proprietors, self-employeds, domestic servants and personnel of the armed forces are excluded. 2 Subject to revision. 3 Revised figures.

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W Y O M I N G
LABOR FORCE TRENDS

The **Wyoming Labor Force Trends** is published by the Research and Planning Division of the Wyoming Department of Employment.

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ISSN 0512-4409